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Message Text

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION DAR ES SALAAM INFO SECSTATE FROM
USUN SEPT 16:

QUOTE UNCLAS USUN 3745

FOR EAGLEBURGER WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY AT THE REQUEST OF S/PRESS.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN
SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON TOWN MEETING REPORTS

FOLLOWING IS NEW YORK TIMES STORY WHICH APPEARS IN COLUMN ONE
BOTTOM OF PAGE ONE, IN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, FIRST EDITION:

QUOTE:

KISSINGER AIDES FIND AMERICANS DISTRUST POLICY

BY LESLIE H. GELB
SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 15 -- TOP AIDES OF SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY A. KISSINGER WHO, AT HIS REQUEST WENT TO FIVE CITIES TO
FIND OUT WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE THINKING ABOUT FOREIGN
POLICY HAVE REPORTED BACK TO HIM THAT THE PEOPLE FIND IT
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LACKING IN IDEALISM AND MORAL CONTENT. THE THEME RUNNING THROUGH

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THE AIDE'S REPORTS WAS SUCCINCTLY
STATED IN ONE: "IN SUM, WE FOUND DISTRUST OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S
EFFECTIVENESS IN CARRYING OUT POLICIES INTENDED TO EXPRESS THE
PUBLIC'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS."

OBTAINED FROM CARTER SUPPORTER

THE REPORTS WERE OBTAINED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES FROM
AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO FELT THAT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
WOULD HELP JIMMY CARTER IN HIS QUEST FOR THE PRESIDENCY.
MR. CARTER HAS BEEN STRESSING THE NEED FOR MORE ATTENTION TO
HUMAN VALUES IN FOREIGN POLICY.

FROM EACH OF THE "TOWN MEETINGS," AS THEY WERE CALLED, THE
AIDES CARRIED BACK MESSAGES THAT CONSTITUTED AN INDICTMENT
OF MUCH OF MR. KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY FOR BEING "INSUFFICIENTLY
CONCERNED WITH THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS," FOR LETTING
MOSCOW GET THE BETTER OF DETENTE, FOR CONDUCTING COVERT
OPERATIONS AND FOR NOT DOING ENOUGH ABOUT DOMESTIC PRIORITIES
AND THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

THE "TOWN MEETINGS" BEGAN IN PITTSBURGH ON FEB. 18 AND ENDED
IN MILWAUKEE ON APRIL 30, AFTER SESSIONS IN PORTLAND, ORE.;
SAN FRANSISCO AND MINNEAPOLIS.

THE FORMAT WAS ABOUT THE SAME FOR EACH. LOCAL WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCILS AND UNIVERSITIES WOULD ARRANGE DAY-LONG MEETINGS BETWEEN
KISSINGER AIDES AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, LABOR LEADERS, ACADEMICIANS
AND ETHNIC GROUPS. THE AIDES WOULD LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS AND AN-
SWER QUESTION. TELEVISION TIME WAS AR-
RANGED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE AIR.

IN ADDITION PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS WERE CONDUCTED ON 300 CITIZENS
IN EACH AREA. IN FOUR OUT OF FIVE CASES, THE SURVEYS MATCHED
THE IMPRESSIONS THE AIDES RECEIVED FROM THE MEETINGS.

THE MEETINGS AND THE SURVEYS COVERED FOUR ISSUES:
SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, THE ROLE OF VALUES INN POLICY AND POLICY OBJECTIVES.
IN SOME PLACES, FOOD POLICY WAS DISCUSSED AS WELL.

THE IDEA FOR THESE MISSIONS CAME FROM THE PUBLIC
AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THEY WERE INTENDED
TO COMPLEMENT MR. KISSINGER'S OWN SPEECH-MAKING
TOURS, IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN DEFENDING HIS
POLICY DIRECTLY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.
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THE REPORTS OF HIS AIDES INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING HIS IDEAS ACROSS. THE REPORT FROM
PITTSBURGH, FOR EXAMPLE, STATED THAT "DESPITE YOUR OWN MAJOR EFFORTS,
THE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE HAS NOT COME TO GRIPS WITH A FAIRLY
SERIOUS COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM."

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF
STATE LAWRENCE S. EAGLEBURGER, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
WINSTON LORD, SAMUEL W. LEWIS, AND GEORGE S. VEST. THEY

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IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING GENERAL REACTIONS:
SUSPICION THAT DETENTE IS WORKING MORE IN THE SOVIET UNION'S INTEREST IS COUPLED WITH RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.
DOUBT THAT FOREIGN AID REACHES THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST IS COUPLED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF THE NECESSITY TO BOLSTER THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
REJECTION OF ISOLATIONISM IS COUPLED WITH A FEELING THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS.
SKEPTICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS HEEDING AND SERVING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS COUPLED WITH A YEARNING TO SEE THE UNITED STATES PLAY A SIGNIFICANT AND BENEVOLENT ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS.
WHAT THE REPORT DESCRIBED AS A "LONGING FOR A NATIONAL PURPOSE BEYOND SELF-DEFENSE" WAS ECHOED IN THE OTHER REPORTS. THE ONE FROM PORTLAND STATED THE CONCLUSION THAT AMERICANS BELIEVED THAT "'WE' IN WASHINGTON SIMPLY HAVE NOT APPEARED TO BE ANIMATED IN THE LAST DECADE OR SO BY THE SAME ROOT SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG AS 'THEY' ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY,"
FROM SAN FRANCISCO, THE MESSAGE WAS: "WE WERE STRUCK BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS, WHATEVER THEIR SPECIFIC VIEWS ON PARTICULAR PROBLEMS, FELT THAT THEY AND THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO THE BEAT OF DIFFERENT DRUMMERS." THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT THE PEOPLE STILL WANTED TO CONTAIN COMMUNISM, BUT NOT BY INTERVENTING IN LOCAL CONFLICTS OR BY COVERT MEANS.
UNQUOTE SCRANTON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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